

Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Board of Directors
Minutes

January 15, 2004
3:00 p.m.

Monday Afternoon Club
Willows, Ca.

Chair Don Anderson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. at the above location followed by self introductions. It was determined there was a quorum of (11) voting members present.

County	Public Interest	Landowner	Agency
Butte	Jane Dolan	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	(Dave Womble)	Ben Carter	
Glenn	Denny Bungarz	Don Anderson	
Shasta	(Glenn Hawes)	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	(Dan Silva)	Russell Young	
Tehama	Bill Borrer	Brendon Flynn	
Yolo	Lynnel Pollock	Marc Faye	
Resources Agency			Mel Dodgin
Cal DWR		(Dwight Russell)	Stacy Cepello
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			Pete Rabbon
US F&WS			Darrin Thome
US COE			Mark Charlton
Bureau of Reclamation			(Frank Michny)

Names listed in parentheses represent absences
Manager Burt Bundy
Assistant Pat Brown, Recording Secretary

1. Unscheduled Matters: John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust, discussed the upcoming Snow Goose Festival at the Masonic Family Center in Chico January 23rd – 25th. Activities include a reception at the Sierra Nevada Brewery on Friday evening, workshops, and field trips. This year a new satellite site at the Sacramento River Discovery Center offers the opportunity for tours in the Red Bluff area. Diana Jacobs, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), informed the group that the final version of the Sacramento River Wildlife Area Management Plan should be out the first part of February. She also noted the new Governor has written to the President expressing strong support for CALFED. Jane Dolan was presented with a framed picture in appreciation of her contribution to the SRCAF as Chair this past year. John Merz provided pictures of riprap placed along the river south of the Sunset Ranch on what appears to be private property. He asked that both the Reclamation Board and CDFG look into the situation and respond.

2. Consent Calendar: A motion was made by Bill Borrer to adopt the December 4th, 2003 minutes, seconded by Russell Young. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

3. Agency Reports: Mark Charlton, Corps of Engineers (COE), noted that resources are very tight on both the federal and state sides. On the state side the Department of Finance has frozen all grants; he will keep the SRCAF Manager apprised of potential impacts to projects that would be of interest to this Board.

Pete Rabbon reported on the monthly activity on permits received/issued by the Reclamation Board. They received two applications, one from Sutter Mutual for a fish screen and one from Butte Basin/Glenn County for a private residence.

- Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park Preliminary General Plan - Steve Pavich, Environmental Planner for EDAW, was introduced to update the group on the status of the Plan. The Plan is currently in the public review period with a public meeting scheduled tonight at 7:00 at the Bidwell Mansion in Chico. Steve discussed the units in the Plan area including Irvine-Finch, Sunset Ranch Addition, Indian Fishery, and Big Chico Creek Riparian Area and the proposed focus at each site such as development of campgrounds, hiking trails, or additional parking. At the Sunset Ranch Addition, i.e., they are proposing a visitor center, trailhead, and relocation of an administration center. The CEQA public review period ends on January 26th; the final General Plan/Environmental Impact Report should be completed by February or March, 2004 with final approval in April, 2004. Following the presentation questions were raised concerning trespass issues and impacts from conversion of farm land.

4. Board Committee Reports : The Landowner Assurances Committee report was moved to an earlier time on the agenda because of the deadline on a Stewardship Fund grant which, if approved by the Board, needed to be submitted by 5:00 p.m. today.

- Landowner Assurances Committee – Chair Ben Carter reported on the January 14th meeting. The committee discussed landowner issues as they related to the Strategic Plan. The Ad Hoc committee consisting of Carol Wright, Jeff Sutton, and Renee Hawkins had worked on a voluntary alternative dispute resolution (VADR) process which relates to Good Neighbor Policy (GNP) action #5. The committee also discussed the LEGACI Grant application which the SRCAF would submit for additional resources to work with the LAC in finalizing and implementing the GNP. There was general consensus at the LAC that the request for funding for additional resources move forward.

Marc Faye moved that the SRCAF submit the grant application, seconded by Ben Carter. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. Discussion of Wildlife Crop Depredation: Diana Jacobs introduced John Carlson and Jon Fischer from CDFG to discuss wildlife crop depredation issues. Under Section 1801, their department is charged with maintaining viable populations and finding creative ways to resolve a depredation problem, if one arises, without impacting the wildlife population. The comeback of the elk population, as one example, has created problems with damage to crops and fences. They have been working with landowners to try to resolve the problems first through hazing, fencing, and/or removal of attractants. They can also allow hunting or, as a last resort, issue depredation permits but that solution is not palatable to everyone. As an incentive, under the “Private Lands

Program” landowners are issued permits which they can turn around and sell on the open market for a profit. Some states have tried compensating landowners but the agencies have not been happy with the process because they feel the claims have been too high and, on the other side, the landowners have felt that the agencies were not too strict with the money. The possibility of pooling resources to contract with an animal damage control office was also discussed; this has been done but is also a controversial issue. Jon reported they have been asked to do a feasibility study on the possibility of re-introducing Tule Elk in upper Chico Creek, Bidwell Park area. They will look at the potential for major conflict with landowners and will not introduce if the potential is there. More information is available on their website: www.dfg.ca.gov

6. Strategic Planning Process – Burt Bundy gave an overview of the planning process and noted comments are welcome on both the Strategic Plan and Annual Plan. The Strategic Planning Committee had reviewed those comments that had been received and incorporated some of those suggestions. The Planning Committee recommended moving forward to the Board with the first two pages of the Plan, the Mission Statement, Long-Term Vision, and Values, for possible adoption at the January meeting. Discussion will continue on the 3-year Plan and Annual Plan. Brendon Flynn moved to adopt the language in the Mission Statement, Long-Term Vision, and Core Values. Denny Bungarz seconded the motion. During discussion, a concern was expressed that not enough value was being given to agriculture. The motion was passed, with one opposing vote cast by board member Shirley Lewis. Denny Bungarz reported he has been in contact with the regulatory agencies regarding the boat ramp permitting issue.

7. Manager’s Report – Burt Bundy reported on the Hamilton City Project and a COE Washington DC Headquarters review that will be held January 21st in Sacramento from 9:00 to 12:30. A video teleconference will be available in Glenn County, anyone interested can contact Denny Bungarz for additional information. The agencies still need to determine the non-federal sponsor and the locals will have to establish a maintenance entity. A meeting is scheduled today at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the local maintenance issue.

8. Future Meeting Dates – The next SRCAF Board meeting is scheduled for February 19, 3:00 p.m., at the Monday Afternoon Club in Willows.